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Proposed Co-Counsel for Debtors and Debtors in Possession

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY

In re:	Chapter 11
BED BATH & BEYOND INC., et al.,	Case No. 23-13359 (VFP)
Debtors. 1	(Joint Administration Requested)

DEBTORS' MOTION SEEKING ENTRY OF
AN ORDER EXTENDING TIME TO (I) FILE
SCHEDULES OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES, SCHEDULES
OF EXECUTORY CONTRACTS AND UNEXPIRED LEASES, AND
STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL AFFAIRS AND (II) GRANTING RELATED RELIEF

The last four digits of Debtor Bed Bath & Beyond Inc.'s tax identification number are 0488. A complete list of the Debtors in these Chapter 11 Cases and each such Debtor's tax identification number may be obtained on the website of the Debtors' proposed claims and noticing agent at https://restructuring.ra.kroll.com/bbby. The location of Debtor Bed Bath & Beyond Inc.'s principal place of business and the Debtors' service address in these Chapter 11 Cases is 650 Liberty Avenue, Union, New Jersey 07083.

TO THE HONORABLE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY JUDGE:

The above-captioned debtors and debtors in possession (collectively, the "<u>Debtors</u>") respectfully state the following in support of this motion (the "<u>Motion</u>"):

Relief Requested

1. The Debtors seek entry of an order, substantially in the form attached hereto as **Exhibit A** (the "Order"): (a) authorizing, but not directing, the Debtors to extend the deadline by which the Debtors must file their schedules of assets and liabilities, schedules of executory contracts and unexpired leases, and statements of financial affairs (collectively, the "Schedules and Statements") by 20 days, for a total of 34 days from the Petition Date (as defined herein), to and including May 27, 2023 without prejudice to the Debtors' ability to request additional extensions for cause shown; and (b) granting related relief.²

Jurisdiction and Venue

- 2. The United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of New Jersey (the "Court") has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 157 and 1334 and the *Standing Order of Reference to the Bankruptcy Court Under Title 11*, entered July 23, 1984, and amended on September 18, 2012 (Simandle, C.J.). The Debtors confirm their consent to the Court entering a final order in connection with this Motion to the extent that it is later determined that the Court, absent consent of the parties, cannot enter final orders or judgments in connection herewith consistent with Article III of the United States Constitution.
 - 3. Venue is proper pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1408 and 1409.

Capitalized terms used but not otherwise defined in this Motion shall have the meanings ascribed to them in the Declaration of Holly Etlin, Chief Restructuring Officer and Chief Financial Officer of Bed Bath & Beyond Inc., in Support of the Debtors' Chapter 11 Petitions and First Day Motions (the "First Day Declaration"). A detailed description of the Debtors, their businesses, and the facts and circumstances supporting the Debtors' Chapter 11 Cases is set forth in greater detail in the First Day Declaration, filed contemporaneously herewith and incorporated by reference herein.

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4. The bases for the relief requested herein are sections 105(a) and 521 of title 11 of the United States Code, 11 U.S.C. §§ 101–1532 (the "Bankruptcy Code"), and rules 1007(c) and 9006(b) of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure (the "Bankruptcy Rules").

Background

- 5. The Debtors are the largest home goods retailer in the United States, offering everything from bed linens to cookware to home organization, baby care, and more. In addition to their e-commerce website, the Debtors offer merchandise through their Bed Bath & Beyond stores and their buybuy BABY stores with locations across North America. Headquartered in Union, New Jersey, Bed Bath & Beyond Inc. is a publicly traded company that currently employs approximately 14,000 non-seasonal employees.
- 6. The Debtors commenced these chapter 11 cases (these "<u>Chapter 11 Cases</u>") to implement a timely and efficient process to maximize the value of the Debtors' estates for the benefit of all stakeholders. Through these cases, the Debtors will immediately commence an orderly and value-maximizing wind down of their business, while marketing a sale of all or part of their business on a timeline consented to by their prepetition and DIP lenders.
- 7. On April 23, 2023 (the "Petition Date"), each Debtor filed a voluntary petition for relief under chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code. The Debtors are operating their businesses and managing their property as debtors in possession pursuant to sections 1107(a) and 1108 of the Bankruptcy Code. Concurrent with the filing of this Motion, the Debtors filed a motion requesting procedural consolidation and joint administration of these Chapter 11 Cases pursuant to Bankruptcy Rule 1015(b). No request for the appointment of a trustee or examiner has been made in these Chapter 11 Cases, and no official committees have been appointed or designated.

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Basis for Relief

- 8. The requirements of section 521 of the Bankruptcy Code Bankruptcy Rule 1007(c) normally require debtors to file their schedules of assets and liabilities, schedules of executory contracts and unexpired leases, and statements of financial affairs within 14 days of the petition date. However, pursuant to Bankruptcy Rules 1007(c) and 9006(b), the Court has authority to extend the time required for the filing of the Schedules and Statements "for cause shown." Fed. R. Bankr. P. 1007(c) and 9006(b). Showing "cause" merely requires that a debtor "demonstrate some justification for the issuance of the order" and bankruptcy courts will normally grant such extensions "in the absence of bad faith or prejudice to the adverse party." See, e.g., Bryant v. Smith, 165 B.R. 176, 182 (W.D. Va. 1994) (discussing the standard for granting extensions under Bankruptcy Rule 1007) (internal citations and quotation marks omitted).
- 9. The Debtors submit that good and sufficient cause exists for granting an extension of time to file the Schedules and Statements. The ordinary operation of the Debtors' businesses requires the Debtors to maintain voluminous books, records, and complex accounting systems. To prepare the Schedules and Statements, the Debtors must compile information from those books and records, and from documents relating to the claims of their thousands of creditors, and the Debtors' many assets and contracts. This information is extensive and located in numerous places throughout the Debtors' organization. Collecting the necessary information requires an enormous expenditure of time and effort on the part of the Debtors, their employees, and their professional advisors in the near term.
- 10. The Debtors, with the assistance of their professional advisors, are mobilizing their employees to work diligently and expeditiously on preparing the Schedules and Statements, but resources are strained. Given the amount of work entailed in completing the Schedules and Statements and the competing demands on the Debtors' employees and professionals to assist with

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stabilizing business operations during the initial postpetition period, and the critical matters that the Debtors' management and professionals were required to address prior to the commencement of these Chapter 11 Cases, the Debtors likely will not be able to properly and accurately complete the Schedules and Statements within the required time period.

- 11. Additionally, in the days leading up to the Petition Date, the Debtors' primary focus was on pursuing all value-maximizing options for the Company, preparing for the chapter 11 filing as expeditiously and efficiently as possible, including preparing the business to transition into chapter 11, and negotiating with their significant creditor constituencies for a soft landing in chapter 11. The Debtors intend to focus the attention of key personnel on critical operational and chapter 11 compliance issues during the early days of these Chapter 11 Cases. Such efforts will facilitate the Debtors' smooth transition into chapter 11 for the benefit of all stakeholders.
- them to prepare and finalize what will be voluminous Schedules and Statements and are working diligently to move the process forward, the Debtors anticipate that they may require up to 20 additional days to complete the Schedules and Statements. Given the size of the Debtors' enterprise, the Debtors submit that the extensive amount of information that must be assembled and compiled, the multiple places where the information is located, and the hundreds of employee and professional hours required to complete the Schedules and Statements constitute good and sufficient cause for granting the requested extension of time. No party in interest will be prejudiced by the extension requested herein because the Debtors have financial and operational incentives to progress these Chapter 11 Cases as expeditiously as possible. The Debtors therefore request that the Court extend the 14-day period for an additional 20 days, without prejudice to the Debtors' right to request further extensions for cause shown.

13. Courts in this district have granted similar relief to that requested herein in a number of cases. *See, e.g., In re David's Bridal, LLC*, No. 23-13131 (CMG) (Bankr. D.N.J. Apr. 17, 2023) (granting debtors a total of 35 days from the petition date to file their schedules and statements); *In re BlockFi Inc*, No. 22-19361 (MBK) (Bankr. D.N.J Nov. 29, 2022) (granting debtors a total of 44 days from the petition date to file their schedules and statements); *In re Nat'l Realty Inv. Advisors, LLC*, No. 22-14539 (JKS) (Bankr. D.N.J. June 9, 2022) (same); *In re RTW Retailwinds, Inc.*, No. 20-18445 (JKS) (Bankr. D.N.J. July 15, 2020) (granting debtors a total of 30 days from the petition date to file their schedules and statements); and *In re Modell's Sporting Goods, Inc.*, No. 20-14179 (VFP) (Bankr. D.N.J. Mar. 13, 2020) (granting debtors a total of 35 days from the petition date to file their schedules and statements).³

Waiver of Memorandum of Law

14. The Debtors respectfully request that the Court waive the requirement to file a separate memorandum of law pursuant to rule 9013-1(a)(3) of the Local Bankruptcy Rules for the District of New Jersey (the "Local Rules") because the legal basis upon which the Debtors rely is set forth herein and the Motion does not raise any novel issues of law.

No Prior Request

15. No prior request for the relief sought in this Motion has been made to this or any other court.

Notice

16. The Debtors will provide notice of this Motion to the following parties and/or their respective counsel, as applicable: (a) the office of the United States Trustee for the District of

Because of the voluminous nature of the orders cited herein, such orders have not been attached to this Motion. Copies of these orders are available upon request of the Debtors' proposed counsel.

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New Jersey; (b) the Debtors' 30 largest unsecured creditors (on a consolidated basis); (c) the agents under the Debtors' prepetition secured facilities and counsel thereto; (d) the DIP Agent counsel thereto; (e) Davis Polk & Wardwell, LLP, and Greenberg Traurig, LLP, in their capacity as counsel to the Prepetition ABL Agent; (f) the indenture trustee to the Debtors' Senior Unsecured Notes; (g) the United States Attorney's Office for the District of New Jersey; (h) the Internal Revenue Service; (i) the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission; (j) the attorneys general in the states where the Debtors conduct their business operations; (k) the monitor in the CCAA proceeding and counsel thereto; (l) the Debtors' Canadian Counsel; and (m) any party that has requested notice pursuant to Bankruptcy Rule 2002. The Debtors submit that, in light of the nature of the relief requested, no other or further notice need be given.

[Remainder of page intentionally left blank.]

WHEREFORE, the Debtors respectfully request that the Court enter an order, in substantially the form submitted herewith, granting the relief requested herein and such other relief as is just and proper under the circumstances.

Dated: April 23, 2023

/s/ Michael D. Sirota

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Proposed Co-Counsel for Debtors and Debtors in Possession

Exhibit A

Proposed Order

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY

Caption in Compliance with D.N.J. LBR 9004-1(b)

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Proposed Co-Counsel for Debtors and Debtors in Possession

In re:

re: Chapter 11

BED BATH & BEYOND INC., et al.,

Debtors. 1

Case No. 23-13359 (VFP)

(Joint Administration Requested)

ORDER EXTENDING TIME TO (I) FILE SCHEDULES OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES, SCHEDULESOF EXECUTORY CONTRACTS AND UNEXPIRED LEASES, AND STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL AFFAIRS AND (II) GRANTING RELATED RELIEF

The last four digits of Debtor Bed Bath & Beyond Inc.'s tax identification number are 0488. A complete list of the Debtors in these Chapter 11 Cases and each such Debtor's tax identification number may be obtained on the website of the Debtors' proposed claims and noticing agent at https://restructuring.ra.kroll.com/bbby. The location of Debtor Bed Bath & Beyond Inc.'s principal place of business and the Debtors' service address in these Chapter 11 Cases is 650 Liberty Avenue, Union, New Jersey 07083.

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The relief set forth on the following pages, numbered three (3) through four (4), is **ORDERED**.

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Debtors: BED BATH & BEYOND INC., et al.

Case No. 23-13359-VFP

Caption of Order: Order Extending Time to (I) File Schedules of Assets and Liabilities,

Schedules of Executory Contracts and Unexpired Leases, and Statements of

Financial Affairs, and (II) Granting Related Relief

Upon the *Debtors' Motion Seeking Entry of an Order Extending Time to (I) File Schedules* of Assets and Liabilities, Schedules of Executory Contracts and Unexpired Leases, and Statements of Financial Affairs and (II) Granting Related Relief (the "Motion"), of the above-captioned debtors and debtors in possession (collectively, the "Debtors"), for entry of an order (this "Order") (a) extending the deadline by which the Debtors must file their Schedules and Statements by 20 days, for a total of 34 days from the Petition Date, to and including May 27, 2023 without prejudice to the Debtors' ability to request additional extensions for cause shown; and (b) granting related relief, all as more fully set forth in the Motion; and upon the First Day Declaration; and the Court having jurisdiction to consider the Motion and the relief requested therein pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 157 and 1334 and the Standing Order of Reference to the Bankruptcy Court Under Title 11 of the United States District Court for the District of New Jersey, entered July 23, 1984, and amended on September 18, 2012 (Simandle, C.J.); and this Court having found that venue of this proceeding and the Motion in this district is proper pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1408 and 1409; and this Court having found that the Debtors' notice of the Motion was appropriate under the circumstances and no other notice need be provided; and this Court having reviewed the Motion and having heard the statements in support of the relief requested therein at a hearing before this Court (the "Hearing"); and this Court having determined that the legal and factual bases set forth in the Motion establish just cause for the relief granted herein; and upon all of the proceedings had before the Court and after due deliberation and sufficient cause appearing therefor,

² Capitalized terms used but not otherwise defined herein have the meanings ascribed to them in the Motion.

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Debtors: BED BATH & BEYOND INC., et al.

Case No. 23-13359-VFP

Caption of Order: Order Extending Time to (I) File Schedules of Assets and Liabilities,

Schedules of Executory Contracts and Unexpired Leases, and Statements of

Financial Affairs, and (II) Granting Related Relief

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

1. The Motion is **GRANTED** as set forth herein.

2. Pursuant to section 521 of the Bankruptcy Code and Bankruptcy Rules 1007(c) and 9006(b), the time by which the Debtors shall file the Schedules and Statements is extended by an additional 20 days beyond the 14-day extension provided for pursuant to Bankruptcy Rule 1007(c) to and including May 27, 2023.

- 3. Such extensions are without prejudice to the Debtors' right to file a motion with this Court seeking a further extension upon a showing of cause.
- 4. All time periods set forth in this Order shall be calculated in accordance with Bankruptcy Rule 9006(a).
- 5. Notice of the Motion as provided therein shall be deemed good and sufficient notice of such Motion and the requirements of Bankruptcy Rules and the Local Rules are satisfied by such notice.
- 6. The requirement set forth in Local Rule 9013-1(a)(3) that any motion be accompanied by a memorandum of law is hereby deemed satisfied by the contents of the Motion or otherwise waived.
- 7. Any party may move for modification of this Order in accordance with Local Rule 9013-5(e).
- 8. This Court retains exclusive jurisdiction with respect to all matters arising from or related to the implementation, interpretation, and enforcement of this Order.